

THE COLONNADE

Georgia College's Student Newspaper

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Photo courtesy of Ada Montgomery

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RETRO REBOOT WITH THE COLONNADE

In honor of GC's Homecoming theme, enjoy The Colonnade's logos from years past!



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SABC spends nearly \$90K on GC Homecoming

**Becca
Fallon**

Contributing Writer

GC's Student Activity Budget Committee (SABC) allocates a certain amount of funds each year for Homecoming, a week-long event that celebrates student pride with fun-filled activities such as laser tag and bumper cars. Homecoming culminates in an exciting weekend with a concert, basketball game and the announcement of GC's Homecoming duke, duchess, king and queen.

This year's "Retro Reboot" Homecoming budget of \$87,362 was divided into two main categories, with \$74,712 being directed towards the Homecoming Concert and the remaining \$12,650 distributed among the other Homecoming Week events.

The use of the budget each year varies heavily based on student input.

"The Homecoming committee is largely responsible for ensuring, logistically, that resources and personnel for the different events and activities during Homecoming Week are connected," said Jonathan Meyer, director of Student Involvement & Business Operations. "There are a number of subcommittees that are mostly comprised of students that greatly assist in the planning and preparation work."

Of the Homecoming Concert portion of the budget, \$50,000 was spent booking high-profile performances by T-Pain, B.o.B. and Ben Provencial, as well as the concert's DJ, Darius Riggins, the last two of whom are GC alumni.

The remaining \$24,712 went towards services like security, sound, lighting, transportation and lodging.

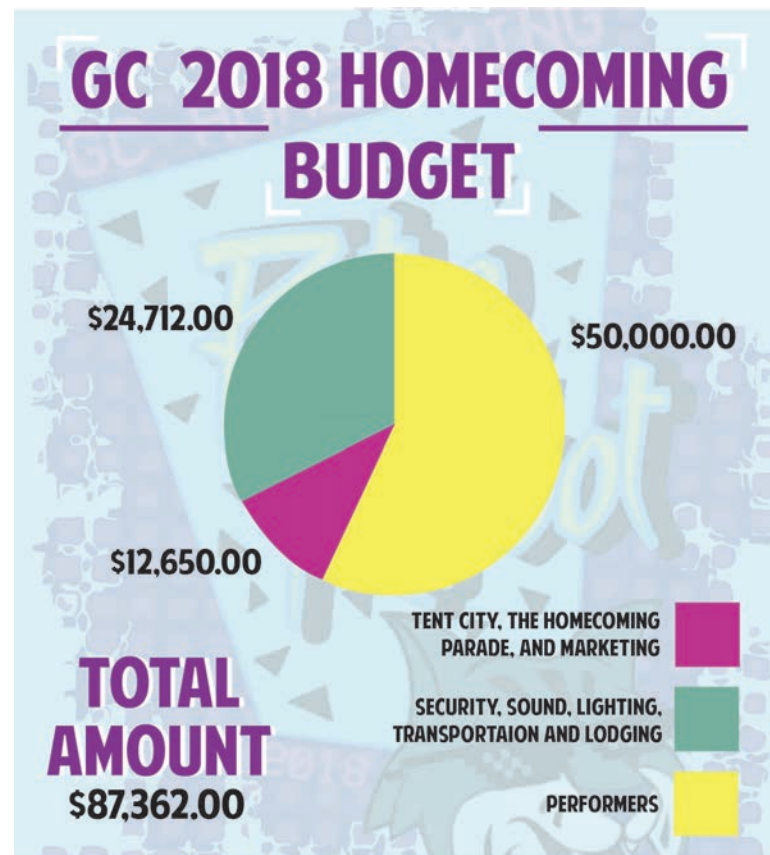
The concert subcommittee undergoes an extensive process in order to select performers, so much so that they begin meeting in September of the year before.

The subcommittee works in conjunction with a third-party booking agency that provides pricing and availability of a long list of performers. They then compare those available to perform in February with GC's budget and enter into negotiation with the performers' contracts.

"Some artists, at times, have provided very specific requests," Meyer said. "Last year, Hoodie Allen wanted two frosted birthday cakes and a bottle of toothpaste. This year, T-Pain has requested a hotel room that must have Cartoon Network's Adult Swim on the TV."

The Homecoming Week events other than the concert make up the remaining \$12,650 of the school's budget and have been allotted for uses such as Tent City, the Homecoming Parade and marketing.

"The school did a really great job maximizing its budget because I would expect the performers to cost much more," said freshman Cassie Gray, a special education major. "I'm really excited for T-Pain, and I know I'll definitely be appreciating all of the school's efforts at my first Homecoming when I'm enjoying the concert front row."



Rachael Alesia / Assistant Graphic Designer

"Super Smash Bros." unites GC's competitive gamers

**Samuel
Tucker**

Contributing Writer

While most people know "Super Smash Bros." as a bizarre video game, to a select group of students at GC, it is an extremely competitive activity that demands rigorous practice, diligence and a great deal of skill.

The most competitive players are members of GC Smash Club, a group of players who meet every Monday night in the basement of Parkhurst to hold competitive tournaments. Among its members are students who compete in local tournaments. Some members are considered to be ranked amongst the best players in Georgia.

William Dentjen has been playing competitive "Super Smash Bros." for almost four years. His goal is to become one of Georgia's top 10 players, and he competes in various tournaments in Milledgeville, Athens and Atlanta.

"The scene here [at GC] is exceptional," Dentjen said.

He encourages more people to get involved on campus if they are looking for a competitive activity that introduces them to other players.

In a competitive scene, players constantly

try to improve their individual skills, but students also use the game to connect with peers.

Harris Collier and Jack Valladares, two roommates living in Bell Hall, decided to

turn their room into a social area for everyone living in their hall. After moving both their beds into their suitemates' room, they set up a TV, couch and chairs to create a room entirely dedicated to playing "Super Smash Bros." They call the room "Smashville."

Collier is the more competitive player out of the two roommates, having competed in more tournaments across the state and possessing more technical skill. Before he came to college, Collier did not have as many people to compete with, so he would mostly polish his skills alone. However, now that he lives in "Smashville," he has more opportunities to share the game he loves.

"Having a bunch of people you can work, play and improve with is one of the greatest feelings [you can have]," Collier said.

Valladares' role is to expand "Smashville." His personal skills work to bring people together and create a community in Bell Hall.

Valladares is also credited with conceiving the idea of "Smashville." He wanted a space for people on his floor to have a social area where they could meet new people and play a game.

"We have people who wouldn't associate with each other normally all hanging out in one spot," Valladares said.



Samuel Tucker / Contributing Photographer

Students in Bell Hall converted their room into a community gaming space.

Meet your 2018 SGA presidential and VP candidates

AMELIA LORD

SGA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE



Sophomore Political Science Major



What do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

Lord said she is most excited about "Swipe Out Hunger," an idea brought to her by honors student Kendall Lewis. This program would collect unused meal plan swipes at the end of each semester and give students the option of donating them to financially disadvantaged students.

"Being without resources like food or not being able to pay for rent is a huge reason why students end up skipping classes, dropping out or having emotional stress," Lord said. "I think that's a huge part of reaching people on campus."

Lord said she wants to increase recognition for GC, such as bringing an independent TED Talk to GC. She also said there is more that SGA can offer to students, especially to cohort and STEM students.



Amelia Lord



Matt Krack

MATT KRACK

SGA VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE



Sophomore Political Science Major



What do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

Krack's focus of "breaking barriers" specifically regards assault and mental illness on campus.

"I lived next-door to a student last year in the dorms, and he committed suicide over Christmas break," Krack said. "And I didn't know he was going through anything. I didn't know that there was a problem, and that hurts because I know what it's like to get to that point, but I also know what it's like to get out of that point."

Something inside of him said that something could have been done for him as well as for thousands of college kids who end up in that place. He commended GC's Wellness Center and Counseling Center, but he said he wants to make these resources more available and abundant so no one as GC has to get to that point.

Krack also said he wants to increase resources provided to survivors of sexual assault, to increase disciplinary actions and to fight on GC's behalf at the state level if necessary.



Favorite Food: pizza (with extra cheese)



Why did you decide to run for SGA?

Krack was a senator his freshman year, and after spending his sophomore year outside of SGA, he decided he needed to "get back in the area." He was seeing the same speeches, the same promises and the same attitudes in SGA.

"When that happens, when people get comfortable in their seats being elected, change stagnates, and nothing gets done," Krack said. "Instead of breaking barriers, barriers are risen and built up."

MIKE MULLER

SGA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE



Junior Political Science & Economics Major



What do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

Midterm grading policy is one of the issues Muller said he wants to continue pushing.

"[Professors] just don't know that students really want it, and that's what we need to focus on," Muller said. "And so we are going to start creating a body, or a movement, of students within their majors going to their departments and saying, 'Hey, students have this problem.'"

Muller said he also wants to continue working on campus culture, something that takes time to develop. This would include making new traditions, having people go to more athletic events and protecting Greek life.



Mike Muller



Mary Catherine Rogers



Junior Political Science Major



What do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

"My goal is to teach others instead of taking my passions and placing them on the 25 [senators] next year," Rogers said. "My goal is to teach them so effectively that they create their own passions, and then you have 25 hands going instead of just one reaching out to 25."

Rogers is greatly involved in the Milledgeville community, regularly attending city council meetings. She also has been working on flipping zoning laws and fighting parking meters.

She said that she and Muller, who are campaigning together, are also passionate about clear communication with students.



Favorite Food: Old Clinton's fried mac and cheese bites



Why did you decide to run for SGA?

Rogers has been a senator for two years and said she loves the impact SGA has on students. She enlisted in the navy as a sophomore and spent a year on active duty orders, which taught her about leadership, integrity and courage.

Afterwards, she continued to use these skills as Chairwoman of Student Services. She calls SGA her "home realm."

"The role of the VP is to facilitate and overlook all legislative actions," Rogers said. "And that is leading senate sessions, that is holding committees accountable, and I feel like I really take charge in my committee, and I get work done."



UNSUNG HEROES

Alice Loper

**Emmy
Cooper**
Staff Writer

GC Student Health Services Director Alice Loper is coming up on her 48th year as a nurse. She said that growing up, she always knew she wanted to be a nurse.

"Whenever people ask me why I wanted to be a nurse, I never had an answer for them," Loper said. "It's always just been within."

Alice grew up in a small North Carolina town. Her mother and sister were both teachers, but she knew she wanted to be like the nurses who took care of her during her childhood.

"Growing up, anytime I had to go to the doctor, I just loved them," she said. "They used to wear the crisp white uniforms and had cool sweet hands. They were so sweet, and I knew that's always what I wanted to be."

Approaching her high school graduation, most students who wanted to pursue nursing were advised to attend a three-year nursing diploma school. However, Loper insisted on going to college and getting a degree.

Loper attended Lenoir Rhyne College, a small liberal arts school in Hickory, North Carolina, where she received her bachelor's of science in nursing. The school is well known for its nursing program.

In 1971, Loper and her close friend were the first two degree holding nurses at

Cleveland Memorial Hospital in Shelby, North Carolina. She worked in that hospital for seven years before going back to school at Emory University to get her master's in adult health with a focus in pulmonary health.

In 1979, Loper married her husband Bill. In 1981, she co-founded a pulmonary rehabilitation clinic in North Carolina, where she helped design a program for patients with chronic lung diseases. The programs help recondition patients' muscle tone and improve

their ability to walk.

During her time at the clinic, Loper helped several patients regain bodily functions and learn techniques to improve their breathing.

In 1985, Loper and her husband moved to Atlanta. The couple opened their Buckhead home to women who were pregnant and unmarried, assisting them throughout their pregnancy journey.

"We acted like their parents, and they came there in their later stages of pregnancy," she said. "After their pregnancy, most of the women released their children for adoption, and we helped them during that time, so it was a challenging."

Loper also spent a year working as a real estate agent but decided that she was not suited for a career in real estate. She took this as a sign that she needed to return to her passion for nursing.

In the early 80s, Loper and her husband moved to the Lake Oconee area, where she started working as a patient educator at Central State Hospital. She attended Emory University to work on her post-master's as a nurse practitioner.

Loper has been at GC for 28 years. For the first 18 years, she taught nursing while working in the campus clinic. Today, every nurse practitioner at GC is one of her former students.

Nurse Practitioner Angie Mason graduated from GC's nursing program and has worked with Loper for 14 years.

"She is wonderful, and she works with us very well," Mason said of Loper. "She goes above and beyond on her duties behind the curtain."

When she is not working, Loper loves to spend time with her sister and her sister's family.

"My husband and I never had any children, but my sister did, and our nephews really felt like our children, too," she said. "Now they



Loper checks a patient's temperature and blood pressure as part of a checkup.



Madi Hartly / Staff Photographer

Loper is the director of GC Human and Wellness Services.

have their own children, so their kids feel like our grandchildren."

Loper and her husband also spend a lot of their free time in the mountains. They are currently building their second home in the mountains, and they plan to move there permanently in the future.

Loper also holds two-part time positions outside of GC, working at the local hospital as a staff educator and working in a hospice facility. She also holds a position on the board of Volunteer of America, working to provide housing for those with mental disabilities.

"I like to work," Loper said. "I prefer that over housekeeping. I like to cook, but I would rather work, so that's why I do it all the time."

Loper's former student and current colleague Leah Barbee says her time with Loper has been nothing but enjoyable.

"She is very patient, very knowledgeable about nursing," Barbee said. "It was very neat going from having her as a teacher to working with her as a colleague. She is very interested you personally and always looks out for your best interest."

During her time at GC, Loper said GC students have changed over the years.

"Years ago, I can remember that students wanted excuses for missing class," she said. "Now, students seem they want to be in class and are much more driven and engaged in their studies."

As for advice for students, Loper says to find what inside of your heart and pursue it.

"Whatever you choose to do in life needs to be your passion, and you need to enjoy it," she said. "You have to be ethical: you have to be honest and basically care for people. You get decide the kind of person you want to be."

Madi Hartly / Staff Photographer

President Steve Dorman presents the state of GC

**Brendan
Borders**
Staff Writer

GC faculty and students packed Russell Auditorium on Feb. 9 to hear GC President Steve Dorman present the State of the University Address and tout GC's 2017 accomplishments.

GC has had quite the year, with Beeson Hall, Mayfair Hall and the McIntosh House reopening after extensive renovations. Flannery O'Connor's family gifted Andalusia farm the university, and GC opened the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy, which seeks to promote better literacy for children in the Milledgeville area and to raise literacy levels across the state.

GC opened the year with a capital campaign of gaining \$11,000,000 through donations and alumni, but it quickly reached \$20,000,000 within months. The new target for the campaign is now set at \$30,000,000

with that campaign ending on June 30, 2020.

Dorman started out the speech by hitting on GC's big accomplishments but quickly switched over to his plans to increase success, foster preeminence and continue to infuse the liberal arts across the campus.

"I take pride when pointing out the signs of preeminence along the way," Dorman said. "You know, I see these signs everywhere I turn at GC. As president, I feel it is incumbent upon me to do all I can to build a strong foundation for preeminence."

Dorman also addressed another main issue: parking.

"I know that parking is an issue on everyone's minds," Dorman said. "It's on my mind too, and I want you to know that."

Last year, GC paved the area behind the depot, adding 150 spaces. Dorman also stated that in a recent purchase, GC has gained a tract of land near the main campus and will be adding 50 more spaces in the next few months.

Dorman closed by announcing GC's initiative for the coming year: "Think Independently, Lead Creatively."

Dorman said that as a collective whole, GC could better job unpacking the liberal arts and educating the public in order to better define GC's identity. Thus, "Think Independently, Lead Creatively" is how GC will be branding itself in 2018.

Dorman stressed that GC's logo and the rest of the university's branding will stay the same, but the new mission statement, "Think Independently, Lead Creatively" will be in effect. He noted that through the use of this goal, GC will be able to move closer to it's goal of preeminence in the next year.

"There's a simple, very simple, formula in my mind that I think will lead us down a pathway to preeminence, and it goes something like this: Student success plus faculty success plus staff success will yield institutional success," Dorman said.

Sophomore Amelia Lord, a political science major said she appreciated Dorman's speech.

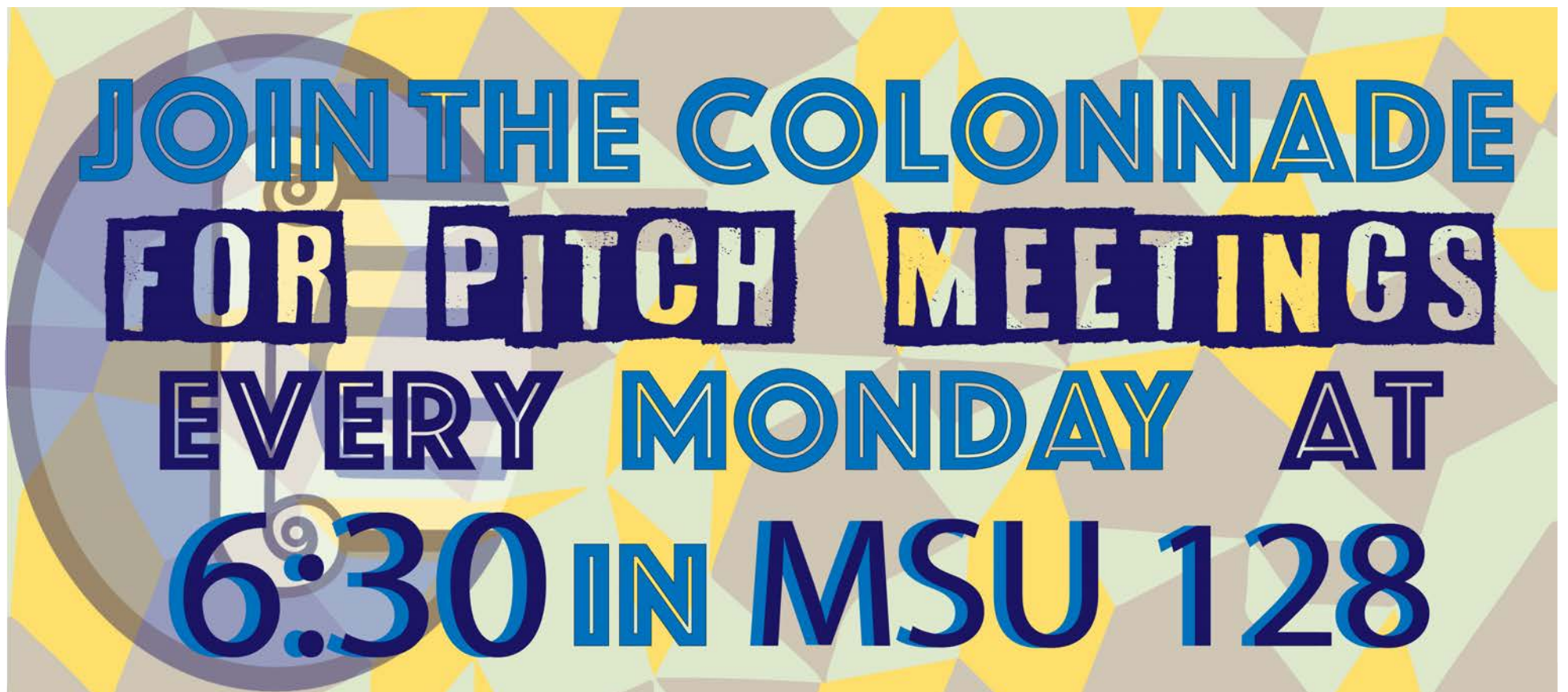
"My favorite part of any university engagement is always just seeing the GC community come together," Lord said. "So definitely at the end honoring the service

awards, he definitely kept the main focus on the students which is always really important."

Sophomore Cameron Watts, an economics major, noted an element he thought was missing from Dorman's speech: inclusivity.

"I think that it's still a large issue on campus that needs some more direct intervention by the Office of the President," Watts said. "I do want to acknowledge that he [Dr. Dorman] has done a lot with the Diversity Action Plan, with stuff that we have been able to implement and also starting the student commission on diversity that he has been heading, but just further acknowledgement of the long distance we have to go, in being more representative of the community that we live in, but also representative of the workforce that we are going to be entering in the future."

Dorman ended the speech with a challenge to think about institutional renewal, embrace the new normal, create more self discovery for students, foster a better experience for the student body to build character and to "Think Independently, Lead Creatively."



GC HOMECOMING RETRO REBOOT 2018

STUDENT'S GUIDE TO HOMECOMING

WEDNESDAY

2 P.M. MEN'S TENNIS VS. AUGUSTA -TENNIS COURTS

3 P.M. BASEBALL GAME VS. WEST GEORGIA - WEST CAMPUS

THURSDAY

4 P.M. SOFTBALL GAME VS. NORTH GEORGIA - WEST CAMPUS

6 - 10 P.M. LASER TAG AND BUMPER CARS - CENTENNIAL CENTER

FRIDAY

7 P.M. HOMECOMING CONCERT (DOORS OPEN) -
CENTENNIAL CENTER

7:30 P.M. HOMECOMING CONCERT BEGINS -
CENTENNIAL CENTER

SATURDAY

9 A.M. TENT CITY OPENS - CENTENNIAL SQUARE

10 A.M. PARADE LINE-UP - TATTNALL STREET

11 A.M. HOMECOMING PARADE BEGINS

11 A.M. TAILGATING BEGINS - CENTENNIAL SQUARE

12 P.M. WGUR RADIO SHOW (CAB)

2 P.M. CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT (RECSPTS) - CENTENNIAL SQUARE

3:30 P.M. WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. NORTH GEORGIA - CENTENNIAL CENTER

WOMEN'S ½ TIME: INTRO OF DUKE AND DUCHESS COURTS

6 P.M. MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. NORTH GEORGIA - CENTENNIAL CENTER

MEN'S ½ TIME: INTRO OF KING AND QUEEN COURTS

AFTER THE MEN'S: HOMECOMING PARADE, SGA, & CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENTS



GC men expect to feed off rowdy Homecoming crowd

Elyssa
Gerber
Staff Writer

The men's basketball team will be playing against North Georgia, one of the team's rivals in the Peach Belt Conference, at the upcoming Homecoming game. The Bobcats currently hold a 6-10 record, with multiple

games this season ending in overtime or double overtime.

The majority of the team is made up of freshmen and sophomores, making it the youngest team that head coach Mark Gainous has seen in his 15 years coaching at GC.

"We are currently eighth in the conference, and the top eight teams go into the tournament," Gainous said. "I strongly believe we can win it if we get into it. We've just got to get into it."

The noise and energy that come from the crowd in the Centennial Center is just what

the Bobcats need to continue improving throughout their season.

"Studies show that teams that really get that fan support at home have a higher chance of winning," Gainous said. "I really feel like it directly impacts the game and the way the team plays."

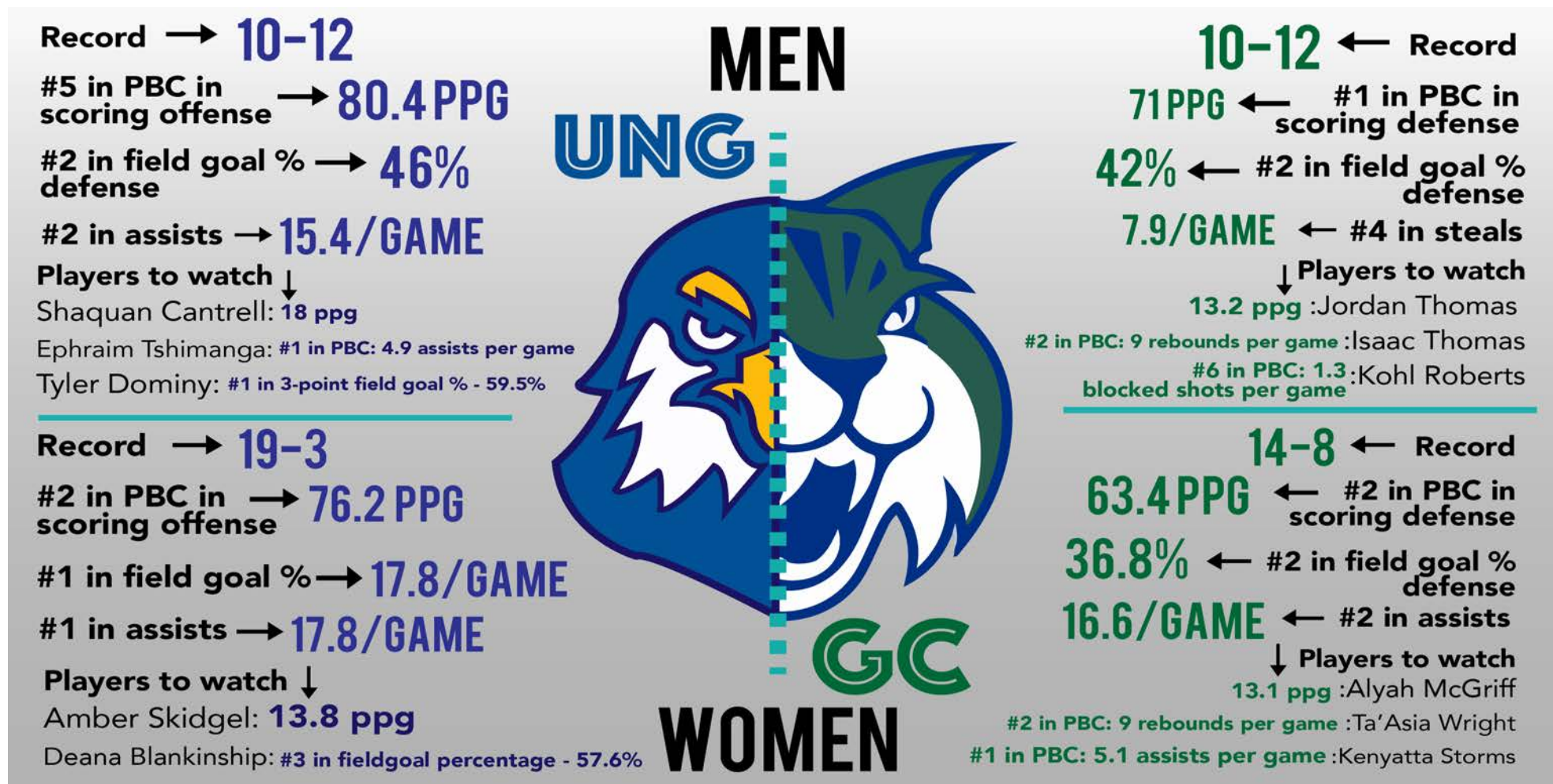
Due to having a team that is almost half freshmen, these players have not yet experienced the big crowd that Homecoming weekend brings.

"This is my first Homecoming game, and I am really excited to see the crowd," said

freshman Chapin Rierison. "Having a big crowd makes everyone play better because we all want to do well and make people want to keep coming back to watch."

The team is very proud to be a part of GC, and they are reminded of that when they see all of the support from the students. This year, for the first time the basketball teams will be walking in the parade at Tent City.

The coaches are excited, and the team is pumped. This will surely be a game that is worth attending.



Kristen Pack / Graphic Designer

Women's basketball looks to avenge last-second loss

Elyssa
Gerber
Staff Writer

Nothing gets a player more motivated than hearing cheers from a roaring crowd. There has been major excitement for Homecoming weekend this year, and GC women's basketball team has been warming up to play

against North Georgia on Saturday, Feb. 17.

The Bobcats have a current record of 11-5. They are currently tied for third in the conference, and they will be playing against the No. 1 team.

The last time these teams faced off, North Georgia was victorious with a buzzer-beater shot. It was a tough loss, but the Bobcats are fired up to take on this team again.

The atmosphere that comes along with Homecoming weekend is just what the team need for motivation

"When the crowd is excited and loud, the players feed off of that energy," said head coach Mo Smith. "It's almost like having a sixth person on the court helping us out."

For the first time ever, the GC women's and men's basketball teams will be a part of the Homecoming parade through Tent City. There will be other student athletes involved in the parade as well. With crowd spirit playing such a crucial role on the team, this is an exceptional way to get the students hyped up for what is sure to be an exciting game.

"Having a crowd truly helps with the entire energy of the game and gives us a boost," said junior Erin Drynan. "When we go to an opposing team, and they have a big crowd, it is intimidating, which is why having a crowd when we are at home is so important."

The women's basketball team will be playing at 3:30 p.m. followed by the men's team at 5:30 p.m. Both teams are ready to take on North Georgia with the support of the students cheering them on.

GC athletes unfazed by low attendance numbers

Alex Jones
Staff Writer

GC is one of the biggest Division 2 schools in Georgia, but as a liberal arts college, the diverse student population emerges through the variety of extracurriculars the university offers.

The array of opportunities for students to participate in, however, can lead to low attendance at GC sporting events.

Some student athletes come from larger division high schools with almost as many students as GC. In high school, the fan base can be higher, including parents, friends and the local supporters who attend every game.

"It's different not seeing everyone's family at the games," said softball player Amber Coy. "But you play for

your teammates, not the fans."

Although GC does not consistently reach record attendance nights, the athletes and the coaches don't focus on it. Instead, they zone in on their opponents and preparing for every game no matter the turn out.

"Whether it's a big crowd or a small crowd, we don't focus on that," said softball coach Jamie Grodecki. "The girls put the work in, and we prepare to do what we do."

For GC's baseball teams, the new modified fence has assisted the home field advantage environment for the players. Fans are able to sit behind the fence and in the bleachers behind home plate, producing a smothering effect from all angles while being able to see all the action.

"It gives us a definite home field advantage," said baseball coach Jason Eller. "We were 21-3 at home last year, and this is going to help."

The baseball teams' four College World Series

Championships and historic program draws in local supporters and alumni, but they intend to continue attendance growth and support.

"It's a different atmosphere at GC than when I was at Pope High School," said basketball player Garrick DeBowles. "It varies, but we just go out there and play ball."

The basketball team gives a lot of credit to the cheerleaders who enhance the energy throughout the game.

"Having the cheerleaders helps keep the atmosphere loud," DeBowles said. "But we'd love to see more students at the games."

Increasing the fan bases for GC athletics is difficult with the countless programs and clubs to compete for students' time and attention. However, it's something that could unify the student body. There's nothing like getting rowdy and loud cheering on the Bobcats to seal the victory.



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Kohl Roberts skies for a rebound in front of a thin home crowd.

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 at 7:30 p.m.

Tony Award-Winning
 Broadway Musical
 With Dr. Cliff Towner
 and the GC Jazz Combo
 Directed by Dr. Karen Berman
 Choreographed by Amelia Pelton
 Music Directed by Bradley Sowell

March 4 at 2 p.m.
 Russell Auditorium | For Mature Audiences

Book by Joe Masteroff
 Based on the play
 by John Van Druten and
 Stories by Christopher Isherwood,
 Music by John Kander
 Lyrics by Fred Ebb

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A Season For CUBAN NIGHTS CABARETS AND DNA
 2017-2018

Tough schedule nothing new for men's tennis

Isaiah Smith
Co-Sports Editor

After last season ended in the NCAA Regional Semifinals with a close loss to then-Peach Belt Conference foe Armstrong State University, the GC men's tennis team has its sights set on

earning another NCAA Tournament bid in 2018.

"Our goal is always to compete for the Peach Belt Championship," said head coach Steve Barsby. "We know if we're in the top part of the Peach Belt, we're going to compete on the national level, so that's our goal every year."

The Bobcats enter the 2018 season with a relatively young

team, as they only have one senior on this year's roster and boast four new players. Because of this, Barsby said his team will look to their two oldest players for leadership.

"We'll probably lean on our two eldest guys, Pedro Ecenarro and Jannik Kumbier, the most," Barsby said. "If they play well, we'll do well as a team. If those two guys struggle a little bit, we'll struggle as a team. It's all pretty much going to run through those guys."

Kumbier, who redshirted last year after missing most of the season with a wrist injury, said he is excited to get back on the court this season, and he believes GC needs to get off to a fast start this season to begin building confidence and reach their goal of making it to nationals.

"I think we have to get rolling," Kumbier said. "I always feel like we start a little slow and pick it up at the end, so we need to be focused in the beginning of the season and take it match by match."

For Ecenarro, who was the PBC's Freshman of the Year in 2014-2015, the focus will be on mental toughness and hard work to get GC back into the NCAA Tournament this season.

"We've got four new kids on the team who haven't played college tennis yet, so they probably don't know what's coming," Ecenarro said. "You can tell them, but they're not going to know until they actually play a match. So it's just hard work and mental toughness, which is just putting all the excuses aside no matter what happens."

As leaders for the Bobcats, both Kumbier and Ecenarro praised each other's ability to lead by example during practice to show younger players what the intensity of college tennis is like.

"I don't think either of us is a really good talker," Ecenarro said. "A lot of sports culture in the U.S. is a lot of talking and speeches before games, but I'm not really into that. We prefer to lead by doing things and having new guys see how we practice and do everything, because that's a better way for them to realize that you've got to take it seriously."

This season, Kumbier and Ecenarro will lead the young Bobcats, who are ranked No. 5 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's preseason Southeast Regional Rankings, against a schedule that features matches against seven opponents ranked in the ITA's preseason Top 25 poll.

In the poll, the PBC boasts four teams ranked in the ITA's national preseason poll and seven teams ranked in the ITA's Southeast Regional Rankings.

"The conference is really tough just like every year," Ecenarro said. "We know that teams are good. They have really good coaches that recruit really good players from all over the world, so it's always hard."

But despite having such a rigorous regular season schedule, Barsby said this is something that he and the Bobcats are used to, and they are embracing the challenge that the season will bring.

"The thing is there's nothing we have to change," Barsby said of the always-tough PBC. "At the NCAA's, it's always been six or seven PBC teams at the regional tournament at the end of the year and a couple of conference champions from in our region, so the level has stayed really high. And then we added two or three other teams that are top 10 in the country outside our conference, but we like it. It's fun."



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Nathan Connelly hits a backhand at practice.

Experienced women's tennis eyes NCAA tournament berth

Katie O'Neal
Staff Writer

This season, the GC women's tennis team is focusing on coming together as a team with hopes of making it to nationals.

The schedule is expected to be tough.

"We've been pushing them a lot harder in practice and trying to put a little more stress and pressure on them, so [it's] not new to them when [they] get to matches," said coach Steve Barsby.

During practices the team has been focusing on playing more sets instead of drills, and they have been preparing by doing more weights to prevent in season injuries.

"Now it's just a matter of when we get out on the road and start playing all these matches," Barsby said. "It all keeps coming together. Because you don't know until you get out there and play."

The team is excited for the season this season.

"I think it's the best group of girls we could have," said senior Jena Kelly. "Being a senior

and realizing the incredible competition that we have for our team, I am going to miss being able to hit with them next year."

Some goals set for the team are going to regionals and nationals, working really hard together as a team and giving everything during practices and matches.

"A personal goal would be getting an award in conference and keeping up with my studies," said junior Valeria Lopez.

"Our expectations are always to play in the NCAA tournament at the end of the year," Barsby said. "That's our goal every year, and then [we] see what happens [because] once you get into the tournament, you always have a chance."

The team is focusing on strength and endurance throughout the season as well as supporting each other.

"We want to be more vocal on the court with each other, like pumping each other up during matches," Kelly said.

The team is looking forward to bus rides and growing closer with their teammates, especially during spring break when the team travels to Pensacola.

"Come out and support," Kelly said.

The next home match will be Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 2 p.m.



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Valeria Lopez (left) and Jena Kelly (right) in doubles practice for the Bobcats.

Scott Stefano turns students into lifelong scuba divers

Patrick Steimer
Staff Writer

Students who dream of exploring the underwater world have the chance to become certified scuba divers at GC's Wellness Center pool. Scott Stefano, who has over 25 years of scuba diving experience, prepares students for diving in basic and advanced classes.

"The earth is 70 percent water, and only a part of it has been explored, so it's just a different world down there," Stefano said. "Anybody that has any desire to go see it, they [need] to have these skills so that they can go do it safely."

Students in the basic scuba diving class attend once a week for four hours, when Stefano teaches everything from physics and physiology to diving techniques and equipment management. First, students must begin in the

classroom to learn theory and safety before stepping into the pool.

"It's a slow process," said senior Josh Pharr, a biology major. "We would watch a lot of videos of people scuba diving, and we did swim tests beforehand just to make sure we're comfortable in the water."

In the beginning, not all students who take the course are comfortable with scuba diving.

"Water is an uncharted territory for me," Pharr said. "Just the idea of strapping on all that gear and trusting something to give me oxygen while I'm underwater was very scary to me."

However, Stefano's classes offer a significant amount of experience to ease beginners into the water. Students get 12 to 16 hours in the pool and practice skills like breathing, ascending and descending, clearing their masks and recovering regulators. Additionally, students learn how to avoid dangerous situations.

"When you know what to do in the event of an emergency, then it

makes your time underwater more valuable," Stefano said.

While the course does not count towards students' majors, those who certify will be able to scuba dive anywhere in the world for a lifetime.

Students finish after completing dives in Florida at Devil's Den and the Blue Grotto. This summer, Stefano will also be taking students on a six-day trip to earn an advanced diving certification in the Florida Keys.

"It's like a gateway to another world that you'll never be able to see otherwise," said advanced diver Jake Einig. "You could see it in a picture, but it's really not even close."

Nash Sultan, an international student from Pakistan, said he wanted to take a class he would enjoy during his final semester at GC. Once he gains his certification, he will be able to access diving centers back at home.

"This is not a class you have to take," Sultan said. "Everyone is in there because they enjoy it and



Patrick Steimer / Senior Photographer

Scott Stefano teaches scuba diving basics to GC students.

wanted to learn how to dive."

Today, oceans and waterways are the Earth's final frontier. Ecosystems, vibrant coral reefs, shipwrecks and ancient ruins lay hidden beneath the water's surface. For Stefano, he gets to do what he loves while opening a whole new

world for GC students to discover.

"My primary goal is for everybody to have a lot of fun," Stefano said. "But it's also to teach them how to dive and how to dive safely, so they can go out and enjoy the sport on their own."

Kumbier returns to court after injury ended 2017 campaign

Caroline Snider
Staff Writer

As the GC tennis team heads into the 2018 season, redshirt junior Jannik Kumbier is back on the court, ready to play.

The native of Germany is a senior in the classroom, double majoring in economics and political science. However, with his redshirt, he has two years of eligibility left to play on the court.

Kumbier received a medical redshirt last season due to an injury in his right wrist. After seeing four doctors, problems with Kumbier's right shoulder were causing the pain in his wrist. The pain led to him sitting out for a whole season.

Throughout his recovery season, Kumbier habitually attended rehab for multiple treatments to help heal

his injury. He said the setback was difficult.

"I was trying to help the team the best way I could by helping coach Barsby," Kumbier said.

Head coach Steve Barsby said it hurt to lose Kumbier because he was going to be a big part of the team last year.

"It is always tough because he is one of our top guys and was going to play high in the lineup," Barsby said.

Kumbier said he learned a lot during the time of watching his teammates perform.

"I actually realized how much I love playing and how much I like the sport," Kumbier said.

Along with his talent on the court, Kumbier plays an important leadership role as one of three returners on the team. Barsby said every guy looks towards him.

Sophomore teammate Nathan Connelly acknowledged Kumbier's leadership role and what a positive impact he is to the team.

"He always brings high energy and is ready to go 100 percent every practice," Connelly said. "With Jannik bringing that energy, it creates a chain effect because everyone else tries harder."

Connelly said that having Jannik back makes their lineup deeper and stronger.

Barsby is also looking forward to having Jannik back on the court this season.

"I am hoping for him to have a little more passion because when you sit out, it is gone for a while," Barsby said.

Barsby also said Kumbier has been playing really well so far, and he hopes that continues through this weekend as the team travels to Valdosta State to play.

Kumbier said that watching his teammates play when he could not gave him a new perspective on the game that he hopes can help him as he plays this season. He is completely healed and ready to take on this season.



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Kumbier looks to regain top form after suffering a wrist injury last season.

From the driveway to D2: Sisters reunite at GC

**Brendan
 Borders**
Staff Writer

When Sydney and Sadie Cleveland found themselves checked into a GC basketball game together, for the first time after high school, it was just like old times for the two sisters.

“One of the first times we played together for college, she passed me the ball and cut to the basket, and as soon as I caught it, I saw her cut, and I gave it right back and scored and got fouled,” said freshman Sadie Cleveland.

This wasn’t the first time Sydney assisted Sadie during a game, but it was the first time the feat had been accomplished with both playing as members of the GC women’s basketball team. The moment merited a brief celebration by the sisters.

“We ran and hugged and jumped all over each other,” Sadie said. “Our coaches called a timeout, and he asked if that was the first time we scored together because we were

acting like it was the first. It was just funny because everyone was just laughing at us and so excited.”

Both sisters started playing basketball at a very young age—kindergarten and first grade—and they were hooked almost immediately.

Despite being only two years apart in age, Sydney said that she didn’t play much organized basketball with her sister until Sadie’s freshman year of high school when Sydney was a junior.

Once the sisters found their way onto the court of North Hall High School, they soon fell in love with the sport and with playing together.

“She’s my favorite teammate,” Sadie said. “I love playing with her.”

Sydney rebounded this feeling about her sister, saying that when given the choice, she always picks her sister to be on her team first.

“I know how good of a ball player she is,” Sydney said, “and I wanted her on my team.”

However, during high school, Sydney tore her ACL twice, and the two sisters only played together for a year before Sydney moved off to GC to begin her collegiate basketball career.

But during Sydney’s sophomore year at GC, she soon caught wind that Sadie was getting attention from GC’s coaching staff. At the beginning of the recruitment process, Sydney said she was on the fence about the whole recruitment process.

“When she first started getting recruited, I was upset because I was like, ‘Man, she’s always copying me and everything I do,’” said the elder Cleveland.

However, once Sadie arrived on campus and the two began playing



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Sydney (left) and Sadie (right) share court for first time since high school.

together once again, Sydney said that their friendship blossomed even more.

“We actually spend a lot of time together here, whether it’s meeting for lunch between classes, going to dinner or going over to her house to play cards with her and her roommates, we do a lot together,” Sadie said. “I mean, we give each other space, and we don’t bother each other too much, but we have found a balance to where we spend time [together] but also have separate lives.”

On the court, the two have also found a balance between competing against one another and sharing advice with the other to improve for next time.

“Sydney shows Sadie the ropes and does a good job at leadership,” said teammate Ta’Asia Wright. “She gives her confidence. Sydney is a great example for Sadie, and Sadie is going to follow in her

footsteps once Sydney leaves.”

Like Wright, Bobcats head coach Maurice Smith marveled at the leadership Sydney Cleveland has brought to the team and her sister on the court, and he also praised the high-character attitudes both sisters embody.

“We are talking about two high-character young ladies,” Smith said. “I want my two daughters to have what they have—discipline and character—but their leadership has transformed this team, especially Sydney’s.”

Smith also added that Sadie possesses the tools to be a great leader as well.

“It’s going to take time for her to be comfortable and develop those tools,” Smith said. “Those sisters embody the most productive, successful person somebody could be.”

Sadie also mentioned that her sister provides basketball-related

advice and pointers to her on how to cut to one side better or to pass the ball better in a certain play.

“When Sydney guards me, she gets all up in my case, which she knows I hate,” said Sadie. “But I know that the reason she is doing this is to teach me that opposing players aren’t going to let up, so why should I?”

And even though the two sisters aren’t seeing many minutes on the court together right now, Sydney said it’s only a matter of time before her sister joins her and starts competing for major minutes on the hardwood.

“Her being a freshman and her getting used to the team, yeah, she might not be getting playing time right away, but I know she’s a great player, and her time is coming,” said Sydney. “So when it comes to that time, and we are on the court together, it’s going to be light’s out.”



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

The Cleveland sisters push each other to improve during practice time.



Campaigning for the crown

Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

**Ada
Montgomery**
Digital Media Editor

The race to victory of becoming GC's next Homecoming queen, king, duke or duchess can be a highlight for many fraternities, sororities and other organizations.

Students who pass by the fountain may receive flyers, fresh baked cookies or stickers in return for their vote for Homecoming representative.

This year, 30 students are running to receive a crown at the Homecoming basketball game. The strategies and planning stages of getting the perfect candidate begin early so organizations have enough time to order all the supplies.

"We've been preparing since the end of November, so over Christmas break was a huge part of the planning," said senior Avery Mixon, public relations manager of Kappa Delta and a mass communications major.

Others, like Alpha Tau Omega, have only been planning for a few weeks.

"We've only spent a couple weeks planning to make sure we have enough time to get pictures for social media posts and campaigning," said freshman Will Steinman, Homecoming candidate and undecided business major.

Every year, the Panhellenic Council votes on whether

sororities can hand out gifts to other students, such as shirts, large buttons and cups. This year, Panhellenic voted on a rule barring sororities from handing out these items, known as frills, to passing students and can only do so in their organization.

In past years, some sororities would give out these frills to give their candidates a better chance at winning, but for the past two years, there has been more of a focus on the aspect of sisterhood.

"We would rather spend our chapter dues on chapter-related events rather than campus promotional events," said junior Paige Overmyer, VP of finance for Delta Gamma and a sociology and criminal justice major.

With the new rule, campaigners have focused more on word of mouth, yard signs, flyers and chalking. This year, however, a few sororities including Delta Sigma Theta wanted to boost their presence with different items at tables and strategies like going to different small groups around campus.

"I ordered pencils with a campaign message, which really gets my name out there in a different creative type of fashion," said senior Jessica Chapman, Homecoming candidate and middle grades education major.

Everyone has different tactics, such as going to different sororities and fraternities to campaign, hanging up posters, tabling at the fountain or visiting different small groups to campaign. For Alpha Tau Omega, a huge focus will be word of mouth and social media.

"We will be going to sororities to advertise our campaign, and I was told to be loud and outgoing for what we stand

for," Steinman said.

No matter the outcome, everyone receives a wide array of support from students. This is a perfect time to boost morale and to get others pumped for the basketball game and tent city with friends and alumni.



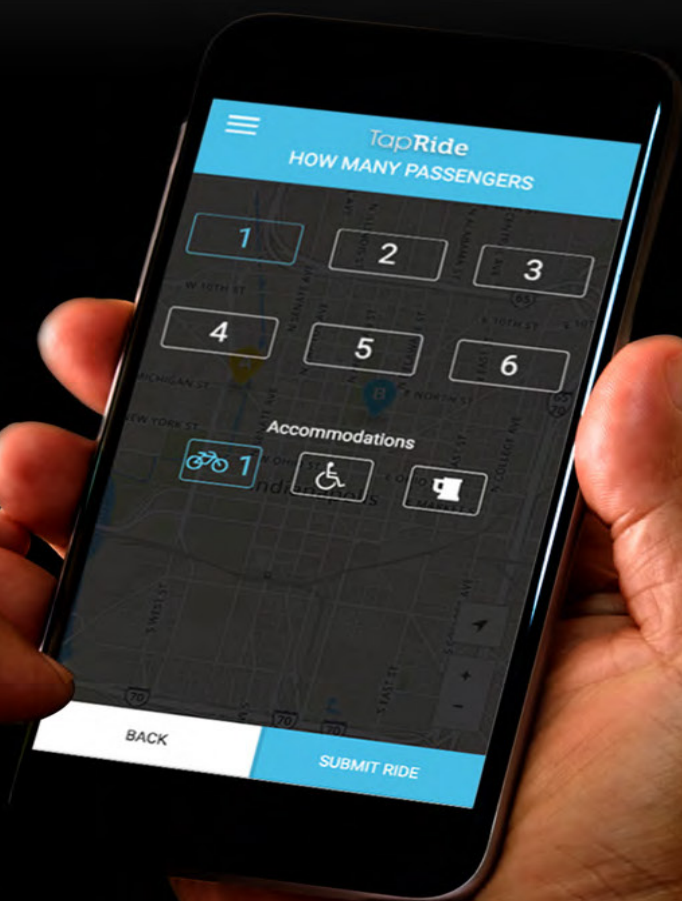
Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Sophomore Alex Taylor campaigns for AOII.

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COLLEGE COOKING HACKS

Brendan Borders
Staff Writer

The struggle is real. Finding the time and money to cook a decent meal in college isn't easy. While cooking may not be the college student's forte, a few students here at GC have some tips and tricks that will save time and money. They require minimal skill and hardly any preparation: a college student's dream.

The classic bowl of ramen is every student's go-to. Austin Cushing, a junior biology major, said he loves to add some zeal to his ramen noodles after a long day in Herty Hall.

After he adds the noodles to boiling water, Cushing's trick is that he adds a few eggs to the mix, which instantly cook.

The result? Egg drop ramen soup.

"I have a busy schedule and it's super easy to make in like 10 minutes," Cushing said.

Jay McKown, a junior marketing major, said he loves his macronutrients.

McKown's everyday recipe is of an at-home version of the classic bacon, egg and cheese.

With this minimal-effort delicious recipe, any student will be out the door with time to spare. All there is to do is scramble up two eggs and cook up a few strips of turkey bacon. Instead of regular bacon, McKown uses turkey bacon as a tasty, healthy alternative. Put

the protein on the bagel, sprinkle some cheese on top and let it melt between the delicious bagel halves. "Here at the house, we like to specialize in the basics," McKown said.

Olivia Granger, a senior pre-nursing major, said her favorite meal to make is spaghetti squash. Not only is spaghetti squash inexpensive, but it is simple too.

Granger said she loves making spaghetti squash because it's a great

pescatarian option.

"It is super easy to make, and you can pretty much add whatever vegetables or sauce you want to it," she said.

Apart from fast, simple recipes, there are also a few tips for keeping food fresh and delicious.

Chemistry majors: listen up. If you are making an atomic nucleus out of various fruits for a project, but do not want your bananas and apples turning a weird brown

color, just go ahead and brush on something containing citric acid to pre-occupy the oxygen in the air, and prevent your delicious electron apple slices from turning a different color. The night before when you are chopping away, just brush on some orange, lime or grapefruit juice and refrigerate.

Or if you do not have a kitchen brush, cut a piece of parchment paper into a strip, and then cut and fray the end of one side, creating

a makeshift, MacGyver-worthy kitchen brush for any emergency cooking need you might have as a college student and budding masterchef.

If you do not know much about cooking, be sure to look at the infographic for more specific information about how to make certain recipes featured in this article, as well as spaghetti squash.

THREE EASY RECIPES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

BREAKFAST BAGEL

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 BAGEL
- 2 EGGS
- SHREDDED CHEESE
- TURKEY BACON
- BUTTER

DIRECTIONS:

1. TOAST A BAGEL IN A TOASTER OR MICRO-WAVE OVEN AND SCRAMBLE EGGS
2. MIX SHREDDED CHEESE INTO THE EGGS
3. COOK TURKEY BACON ON THE STOVE TOP OR HEAT IT UP IN THE MICROWAVE
4. PUT SOME BUTTER ON THE TOASTED BAGEL AND THEN ADD BACON.
5. ADD THE CHEESY SCRAMBLED EGGS ON TOP

SPAGHETTI SQUASH

INGREDIENTS:

- MEDIUM RAW SPAGHETTI SQUASH, (ABOUT 2 1/2 LB)
- 1 TSP OLIVE OIL
- 1 SMALL ONION(S), CHOPPED
- 1 TSP GARLIC CLOVE(S), MINCED
- 14 1/2 OZ CANNED STEWED TOMATOES, CUT UP
- 1 TSP ITALIAN SEASONING
- 1/4 CUP GRATED CHEESE

DIRECTIONS:

1. PREHEAT OVEN TO 350°F.
2. HALVE SQUASH LENGTHWISE AND SCOOP OUT SEEDS.
3. PLACE SQUASH, CUT SIDES DOWN, IN A LARGE BAKING DISH AND PRICK SKIN ALL OVER WITH A FORK.
4. BAKE UNTIL TENDER, 30 TO 40 MINUTES.
5. TO MAKE THE SAUCE, HEAT OIL IN A MEDIUM SKILLET OVER MEDIUM-HIGH HEAT.
6. ADD ONION AND GARLIC AND SAUTÉ UNTIL TENDER,
7. STIR IN TOMATOES AND ITALIAN SEASONING; BRING TO A BOIL.
8. REDUCE HEAT AND SIMMER, UNCOVERED, STIRRING OFTEN, 5 MINUTES.
9. TO SERVE, CAREFULLY RAKE THE STRINGY SQUASH FROM THE SKIN WITH A FORK, SEPARATING IT INTO STRANDS THAT LOOK LIKE SPAGHETTI.
10. SPOON SAUCE OVER SQUASH AND SPRINKLE WITH PARMESAN CHEESE.

RAMEN NOODLE EGG DROP SOUP

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 PACK OF RAMEN NOODLES
- EGGS

DIRECTIONS:

1. BOIL WATER AND ADD RAMEN NOODLES
2. IMMEDIATELY AFTER ADDING THE NOODLES, CRACK A FEW EGGS INTO THE MIXTURE.
3. FINISH COOKING & ENJOY!

Rachael Alesia / Assistant Graphic Designer

Tonality

A music review column

Benjamin Monckton
Contributing Writer

Say you're going to start streaming "Stranger Things," but you decide to start on episode three of season two. The episode is entertaining, but you have no idea what is going on. You're lacking context. You haven't seen the full body of work if you've only seen one episode. It's a different experience entirely to read

a whole book rather than read only one chapter of that book. What you would derive is a glimpse of the theme, just a handful of the author's story. This same ideology should be applied to the way you listen to music. An artist has a concept, theme or message in mind when creating the work that can only be fulfilled through a selection of songs, each acting as a chapter would in a novel. A song is only a part of the story, a word in a sentence, a piece of the puzzle. There is something about starting an album and letting it play start to finish that will evoke feelings you may have never experienced. It is imperative to view the musical album as a standalone body of work, rather than a selection of hit single tracks.

Pink Floyd's "Money" becomes all the more powerful in the chronological context of "Dark Side of the Moon." When we approach listening to albums, my personal recommendation is to dedicate all of your attention to the experience. Actively listen, shut out the world around you, turn off your phone, put on a good pair of headphones, close your eyes and surrender yourself to the music. I promise, you will develop deeper connections with music, the artist and yourself. 2018 is going to be a year of landmark music releases from classic and upcoming artists. This column will be dedicated to reviewing, analyzing and dissecting albums thematically, instrumentally and lyrically.

GC STUDENTS GEAR UP FOR HOMECOMING CONCERT

**Lindsay
Stevens**
Staff Writer

GC has announced that T-Pain and B.o.B. will perform at this year's Retro Reboot themed Homecoming on Feb. 16.

This lineup was welcomed by many GC students who still enjoy the music of the headliners. However others felt the lineup could have been better or featured more diverse music genres.

"The lineup isn't bad this year with T-Pain and B.o.B.," said sophomore Will Swinson, an accounting major. "I wish we could bring back Lil Dicky, though. He's gotten a larger following and released more songs since the last time he was here, so it would be cool to have him back."

Other students don't like the lineup as much since the artists aren't as popular as they once were, but they appreciate how unexpected it is, considering how different it is from last

year's lineup of newer artists.

"I guess I'd say I'm not personally a fan of it, but it's nice to see that it's so different and unexpected when comparing it to last year's lineup," said freshman Rachel Rasmussen, an early childhood education major.

While some students feel the lineup could be better if it had different artists within the same genre, other students felt GC needs to diversify their lineup. GC hasn't had a non-rap headliner since 2014, with Ben Rector. However, Rector co-headlined with Travis Porter, who is a rap group.

Since 2014, the headliners have been Hoodie Allen, Rich Homie Quan and Waka Flocka Flame, all of which are rap performers.

"I think it should be a mix of bands, some country, some old rock 'n roll," said junior Rachel Burrows, a public health major. "I think a lot of students listen to a variety of music, and since we've had rap artists lately, maybe we should throw in some country artists such as Thomas Rhett or Brett Eldridge."

Although some GC students, like Burrows, do want to

include different music types in the lineup, the main group that GC students wanted to perform for homecoming was Migos.

"Even though it would be cool to diversify the type of music that performs for homecoming, I think everyone would love Migos to come to Milly," Burrow said.

Other students agreed, and the overwhelming choice amongst GC students was to have Migos headline.

"I think if I could have any lineup for Homecoming, I would want Migos to headline," said sophomore Nate Arnett, an exercise science major. "They have a ton of great songs, and I know that almost everyone here would enjoy them and come to the concert."

With Migos in mind for next year, T-Pain and B.o.B. are still the performers for this year. GC students can purchase their tickets for \$5, with the option of purchasing two additional tickets for \$10 each. Doors open at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16 at Centennial Center, and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m.



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